

In Re: Donald G. Flaynik, Jr.

In Response to Office Action mailed May 7, 2003, S.N. 10/086,064

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Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for imparting anti-static characteristics to fuel, the method comprising supplying a hydrocarbon fuel; and mixing the fuel with metal ion to reduce the electrical resistance of the fuel, the step of mixing the fuel with metal ion being preceded by solubilizing a salt containing the metal ion with a solvent, the salt-solvent weight ratio being between 0.0001:1.0 to 0.01:1.0 salt:solvent.

Claim 2 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the metal ion is contained in a salt selected from the group consisting of LiBr, KBr, MgBr, and combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the ion is contained in a coordination complex containing a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, K, Mg, Ca, Na, Cs, Be, Sr, Ba, and combinations thereof.

Claim 4 (original): The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the metal comprises an alkaline metal.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim [[5]] 1 wherein the solvent is an organic compound selected from the group consisting of a ketone, an alcohol, an aldehyde, and combinations thereof.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for reducing the electrical charge in fuel, the method comprising supplying a hydrocarbon fuel, and adding a metal salt solution to said hydrocarbon fuel, The method as recited in claim 7 wherein the solution comprises comprising a salt present in a solvent in a weight ratio of between 0.0001:1.0 to 0.01:1.0 salt:solvent.

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Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for reducing the electrical charge in fuel, the method comprising supplying a hydrocarbon fuel, and adding a metal salt solution to said hydrocarbon fuel, the salt solution is present in the fuel in a volume percent of between 0.0001 to 0.01, the solvent is a liquid selected from the group consisting of an alcohol, a ketone, an aldehyde, and combinations thereof, the alcohol is present with water in a volume ratio of between 0.1% to 99.5%, ~~The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the ketone is present with water in a volume ratio of between 0.1% to 99.5%.~~

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for increasing combustion characteristics of a fuel, the method comprising supplying a hydrocarbon fuel; and minimizing static electricity accumulations in the fuel prior to combustion, the minimized static electricity accumulations being between approximately 22 percent and 50 percent of the original charge.

Claim 14 (original): The method recited in claim 13 wherein the step of minimizing static electricity includes the step of adding a metal salt solution to said hydrocarbon fuel.

Claim 15 (original): The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the metal salt solution comprises a salt present in a solvent.

Claim 16 (original): The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the solvent is a liquid selected from the group consisting of an alcohol, a ketone, and aldehyde, and combinations thereof.

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Claim 17 (original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of minimizing static electricity charge includes the step of mixing said hydrocarbon fuel with a salt selected from the group consisting of LiBr, KBr, MgBr, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of minimizing static electricity charge includes the step of adding a coordination complex containing a metal selected from the group consisting of Li, K, Ca, Na, Be, Cs, Sr, Ba, and combinations thereof.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the coordination complex is present in the fuel in a volume percent of between 0.0001 to 0.01.

Claim 20 (original): The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of minimizing static electricity accumulations comprises electrically connecting the accumulations to each other via a solubilized metal.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A substance to decrease static charge in ligand fuels, the substance comprising an alkaline metal homogeneously dispersed throughout electrically non-conductive fuel, the static electric charge is decreased between approximately 22 percent and 50 percent of the original charge.

Claim 22 (original): The substance as recited in claim 21 wherein the alkaline metal is present in the fuel in weight ratio of between 0.0000078:1.0 to 0.01:1.0.

Claim 23 (canceled)